

Grace Episcopal Church  
Oak at Middle Street (northwest corner)  
Bath  
Sagadahoc County  
Maine

HABS No. ME-110

HABS  
ME  
12-BATH  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ME  
12-BATH  
1-

Address: Northwest corner of Oak and Middle Streets, Bath,  
Sagadahoc County, Maine.

Present Owner: Grace Episcopal Church.

Present Use: Unoccupied and in process of demolition, July 1962.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This structure, built in 1852, is a fine provincial  
example of a frame "Carpenter Gothic" church.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Date of Erection: 1852.
- B. Architect: Mr. Gardner of Philadelphia (one source); or  
local shipwrights (another source).  
BUILDER FRANCIS H. FASSETT
- C. Alterations and Additions: The building was apparently  
unaltered before its demolition, with the exception of the  
addition of a robing room in 1896, and a heater room during  
the 1900's.
- D. Sources of Information:

Fassett, Francis; Senior Warden of Grace Episcopal Church  
Parish. Middle and Oak Streets. 1962.

Owen, Henry Wilson. Edward and Clarence Plummer History of  
Bath, Maine. Bath, Maine: 1936.

Reed, Parker McCobb. History of Bath and Environs. Portland,  
Maine: 1894.

Note: Both histories of Bath speak of Mr. Gardner of Philadelphia  
as the architect; Mr. Fassett expresses the generally held  
opinion that shipwrights were responsible. The building is cer-  
tainly more "vernacular" than professional; but perhaps  
Mr. Gardner adapted himself to local conditions as Upjohn did  
in his design for a rural church.

- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Further information  
available in parish records of Grace Church (rector:  
Father Richard B. Adams) and an exploration of Philadelphia  
directories in search of Mr. Gardner's first name or initials  
might lead to further information.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This structure is a unique example of Gothic Revival design, structure and ornament in wood.
2. Condition of fabric: Condemned as structurally unsafe, in process of demolition (1962).

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 58'-10 1/2" x 86'-4".
2. Foundations: Brick above grade, stone below. Interior brick piers.
3. Wall construction: Wooden frame, vertical board and batten, 3" battens placed 11" on center; painted grey with red trim; frame bell tower and spire.
4. Steps: Concrete.
5. Chimneys: Two modern brick chimneys.
6. Doorways:
  - a. Entrance doorways in base of tower: Plank doors, two per opening, pointed head, out-swinging doors.
  - b. Vestry doors of planks with beaded edge, pointed head.
7. Windows:
  - a. Multi-paned leaded glass in all windows. Aisle windows have triangular heads on exterior; lancet pointed arches on interior.
  - b. Diamond-shaped window front (east). Tracery and glazed openings form cross in silhouette.
  - c. Elliptical glazed windows in diamond-shaped openings; three openings in each tower elevation above tower entries.
  - d. Window over altar removed at time of recording.
  - e. Louvered openings in bell room of tower.

8. Roof:

- a. Main structure: Two-pitched gable roof. Composition roofing.
- b. Spire: Octagonal roof, covered with wood shingles, with some bands in chevron patterns. Wooden ball and Latin cross finial. (The set-off between the tower and spire covered by planes sloping back along the spire.)

9. Structure: Wooden frame. Modified post and girt. "Y"-shaped supports with supplementary diagonal struts separate nave from side aisles. Tie rods extend across the nave to the side aisles. Wooden buttresses on north elevation extended from floor joist to abut wall at eave. (Removed from south elevation c. 1954.)

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Entrance through base of side tower to sanctuary. Stairs to bell room in tower. Small complex of vestry and sacristy south of chancel.
  2. Stairway: "L"-shaped stair with winders to bell room. Straight-run stairway to basement.
  3. Flooring: Various modern coverings on wooden board flooring.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wood wainscot, plaater and/or composition wallboard on walls. Composition over plaster, on wood lath on ceiling.
  5. Doorways and doors: Doorways simply trimmed, pointed heads. Doors covered with plastic fabric.
  6. Trim: Fragments of oak altar screen remain.
  7. Heating: Modern forced air.
- D. Site: Northwest corner of Oak and Middle Streets, on sloping site. Several large trees at perimeter of site.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, Architect  
National Park Service  
July 1962